



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard  
Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Department of Veterans Affairs and DPSCS To Hold Commemorative  
Veterans Day Planting at Garrison Forest State Veterans Cemetery  
Friday, November 7 at 2 p.m.**

***Secretaries Adkins and Maynard Will Announce  
Expanded Inmate Labor Partnership:  
Two Cemeteries Now Being Improved By Inmate-Veterans***

TOWSON, MD (November 3, 2008)---Inmates who are making a special contribution to their fellow veterans will help two state agencies hold a commemorative Veterans Day planting at Garrison Forest State Veterans Cemetery, 11501 Garrison Forest Road in Owings Mills, on Friday, November 7 at 2 p.m.

The inmates, from the Division of Correction's Central Laundry Facility in Sykesville, are part of an expanded partnership between the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. The unique effort features pre-release inmates who are themselves honorably discharged veterans working to improve and restore State veterans cemeteries.

DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard first suggested the idea of using inmates who are veterans to work in State veterans cemeteries last year. Since then, the Division of Correction (DOC) has identified approximately 420 inmates who served in the American military. Among those, only honorably discharged veterans who are in the last stages of their incarceration at a DOC pre-release center are eligible.

Work began this spring at Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, where inmates from the Brockbridge Correctional Facility in Anne Arundel County have mechanically edged and mulched every tree in the sprawling cemetery; set and adjusted several hundred headstones; graded, seeded, and planted flower beds; and cleared one-quarter of the fence line.

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The Garrison Forest inmate crew began work on September 2. The inmates, from the DOC's Central Laundry Facility in Carroll County, have already cleared 75% of the fence line; weeded and mulched all the flower beds; and begun work setting and realigning more than 350 headstones.

Because the inmates are veterans, they are especially proud to be working at the veterans cemeteries, and thus "invested" in their work. And thanks to Veterans Affairs Secretary Adkins, some may one day be fulltime workers there: the DPSCS-VA partnership includes a plan to hire some of the inmates once they are released.

This unique partnership between two important State agencies will soon expand yet again: DOC is working to identify eligible inmates for the other three State veterans cemeteries: Cheltenham, Rocky Gap, and Eastern Shore.

DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard has in the works a number of projects designed to give inmates a chance to "pay society back" a little, meaningful work that "connects" them with their communities.

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